Principal’s Report

Before I start my official newsletter I would like to thank the community for their support of the Trivia Night Benefit night held for Mr Peter Benham and his wife Sarah who recently had an extremely premature bub, Hudson. Unfortunately he was hospitalised in Sydney which made the situation much more difficult emotionally as well as financially for the young couple. They were overwhelmed by the support the school and community has shown them and I would like to thank everyone involved for their generosity of time and contributions. And might I add it was a fun night even if I happily admit I do not know trivia!!

Another year is nearly over – where does the time go! This year has definitely raced by while we have been introducing new and exciting programs and the year is now in motion for 2014. Throughout the year I have acknowledged the wonderful achievements of students in variety of areas including sport, the creative & performing arts, public speaking, debating and numerous other endeavours. It would, however, be fitting to finish the year by providing a summary of the achievements for 2013 and where we are going in 2014 in teaching and learning – fundamentally the core business of any school and the most important aspect that all the other activities are designed to support.

- The introduction of the Stage 5 Extension class Karrakal.
  This class has provided our top students with an alternate learning program that has been differentiated to provide a variety of different experiences including self directed, cooperative and online learning. These skills have been identified as key employment skills required in the workplaces of the future. They were also allowed a greater degree of choice in their learning in some subjects and this will be further developed into the future. The staff backward mapped their programs from the skills and understandings required for the HSC and further extended their programs to take the students deeper into the complex concepts in each subject area. Students were provided opportunities to reflect on their learning and developed the skills of understanding, utilising and applying learning rubrics to their work. The staff involved were also on the journey with the students, as they too were asked to move out of their comfort zone and reflect and research different ways to approach developing learning outcomes for enrichment students. The focus was on different not more. We have undertaken an evaluation with the staff of the journey thus far and although there were teething problems and identified areas that need further development the general consensus was that the process is a valuable one and that the majority of students benefitted from the program, specifically those who are operating at the top level. The students will also be included in an evaluation process and a parent meeting will be held prior to the end of term to gain feedback from parents. The pilot program was a two year process and the information we gather from all stakeholders will inform any adjustments for 2014 and beyond.

- The introduction of the Stage 5 Tirriki Support class. This class was also introduced to ensure that those students needing additional support were catered for and provided with a range of teaching strategies that enabled students to reach their potential in a variety of ways. The students were provided with laptops to reduce the negativity of handwriting all notes, a stumbling block for many. The learning programs were also designed to focus more on visual (pictures and diagrams) and kinaesthetic (hands on and active) approaches as many of the students lean to this mode of learning as opposed to verbal and written. The students were also provided with more extensive scaffolding of tasks to that they could be broken down to create smaller steps in the learning process that are more easily achieved. There have been many successes this year in this class and some of the work produced has been exceptional and even surpassed the students wildest expectations of themselves. Again we are meeting to evaluate the program and identify the strategies that worked well and need to be extended and those that were not as successful and develop more effective approaches and programs to ensure continual improvement. We will also be asking parents and students for their feedback on the class in 2013.

- The Literacy Project – Swansea High embarked on the development of the Super 6 literacy strategies at the beginning of the year with a small core group of ten staff. These strategies are designed to promote the development of a skill set students can use to better decode texts and understand their meaning. There are surprisingly six strategies including:
  ✓ Connecting the text with previous understandings
  ✓ Visualizing the text by creating mental pictures (a critical skill that is often absent in poor readers)
  ✓ Predicting what the text may be about by identify key words and visual cues
  ✓ Asking questions about aspects of the text they don’t understand
  ✓ Monitoring your reading and knowing when to recheck or go back over the text to gain meaning.
  ✓ Summarising by being able to identify key words and phrases from within the text to gain a brief account that provide the key meaning of the text.

We were then provided with funding from the Department to focus on literacy and were able to extend this project to all staff. This has been wonderful and staff have been developing resources and strategies to teach these skills explicitly to all students to improve the literacy level of our students. The work that has been undertaken is nothing short of fantastic and the staff should be commended for their efforts. We hope to see the difference for our students in the external testing, hopefully next year but certainly by 2015 as the program is embedded across the curriculum.

- The Authentic Assessment Process – We are again undertaking the interview process for year 10 with all students being interviewed by a teacher, a community member and a student from year 9. This process is designed to achieve three outcomes. The first is to provide them with an opportunity to undertake an interview and gain skills in this process before they have to attend one that may be of greater importance toward achieving an employment
position. This is important but perhaps even more important are the two other aspects. The expectations of work completion throughout the year is that all tasks must be completed prior to the interviews and the students have to explain why they have or have not been able to achieve this outcome. This expectation has an impact on work completion and we have already seen an improvement in this regard. The bottom line is that if work is completed, learning happens and the reverse is most obviously true. The final aspect is that students are asked to reflect on their performance and identify their strengths and weaknesses. I have already had students from year 10 talking to me about how they have not performed as well as they should and are developing plans for improvement. This has been facilitated by the process of support undertaken in class and is of obvious value. The students are asked to develop 3 learning goals for 2014 that they will be revisiting at the start of next year as they embark on their senior program.

We have extended this process to Year 8, where students are also expected to show evidence (a sign off sheet) that they have completed all tasks and reflect on their learning. They will be interviewed by two staff and a year 7 student. They, too, are setting learning goals for year 9 and will be revisiting them in the New Year. This has certainly had an impact on year 8 and have been improved by the fact that many students have initiated the completion of unfinished tasks before the process started. This culture of high expectations is the key to improvement.

Part of this process for 2014 will be the publishing of assessment schedules for all years so that parents and students will have a clear understanding of the tasks that are set, the due dates and timing of tasks so that students can organise their time to ensure all tasks are completed without undue stress.

- **The new Australian Curriculum** – In 2014 years 7 & 9 are being moved to the new curriculum in History, Geography, Maths, English and Science. Over the next few years all years and all faculties will progressively move to the Australian Curriculum. This enables students to move interstate and have similar learning, ensuring smoother educational transitions. Swansea High staff have been working overtime to ensure that we take this opportunity to ensure our programs have a facelift that is not superficial. We have looked at how the Quality teaching framework is embedded ensuring Intellectual quality is evident, there is a supportive classroom environment and that the learning is significant and relevant to the students while complying with syllabus requirements. They will also have the Super Six strategies included within the program so they are taught explicitly within each KLA framework. The Head Teacher Network meetings have shown our staff they are well placed in comparison to other schools and we are in a strong position to implement the programs next year seamlessly and productively. I congratulate the staff again on their commitment to this project.

In 2014 we have been planning to introduce another array of programs designed to further support achievement of all students:

- **Swansea High is moving toward being a Positive Behaviour for Learning School** where there are clear explanations of expected behaviour and students are encouraged to comply through positive encouragement as well as clear consequences. Staff, Students and parents will work together to define the expectations and the structures required to implement the program. The Healthy Schools Healthy Future student team is already working on aspects of the program and a group is attending a student empowerment course next week to enhance their skills to undertake this process. We are increasing the time available for Year Advisors, creating a Welfare Coordinator position and a PBL Coordinator to ensure the effective implementation of this program and hopefully the achievement of improved learning environments for all students.

- **Tutorial Centre** – each Tuesday and Thursday a tutorial centre will be operating for two hours each afternoon after school. The centre will be coordinated by our Learning and Support teacher (Penny Buckley) and will have tutors available for students to access. The tutors for senior students will be ex students who are currently undertaking university studies and achieved well in the HSC and will be employed to support the area of their strengths. The junior students will be tutored by older students in the school who will be offered the opportunity to be paid to tutor. This will have the added benefit of consolidating the learning for the tutors as well as the obvious benefits for the students being tutored.

- **The literacy program** will continue throughout 2013 and in addition a numeracy program being embedded within the Maths faculty to support the individualised assistance for students who require it. This program will include remedial work as well as supporting the introduction of more concrete manipulatives and visual aids to assist students to make better sense of the theory. Also in Maths we will be providing Maths Online to all students so they can recover any aspect of maths that they did not understand in the lesson and get another perspective and way of explaining in class if needed. Students will have access to this program at home as well as at school and will provide an excellent

- **Rock & Water Training** will be embedded in the sports program with identified students undertaking the course each term throughout the year. This program is a behaviour management program designed to support students to gain greater self-control and manage their emotions more effectively as a young adult.

- **There is a landscape training course** being implemented in a joint partnership with TAFE aimed at engaging targeted students with a more hands on approach to learning in Year 9. Ground improvement will be undertaken with students working towards a Certificate 2 in Horticulture. There are also two other projects (a boys and a girls) being undertaken to support students who struggle academically to be involved in a program to provide them with skills to assist them in gaining employment as well as positive living skills.

- **We have also received additional funding for Aboriginal Education** which will allow the wonderful programs introduced during 2013 to be further enhanced and developed in 2014.

2013 has been a busy and productive year and 2014 is shaping up to even more so!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas and festive season and look forward to next year with optimism and excitement as we work to make Swansea High even better!

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**Uniform shop**

**School Uniform Shop**

Last day of trade for the Uniform shop will be Tuesday, 17 December. We will re-open on Tuesday, 21 January 2014, 8.30am-2.30pm.

**January 2014 Opening Days** will be:

- **Tuesday, 21 January**, **Wednesday, 22 January**, **Thursday 23 January**, **Tuesday 28 January**, **Wednesday 29 January** and **Thursday 30 January** from, 8.30am to 2.30pm on all of these days.
Deputy Principal

Truancy
Some students are still not following the procedures of signing out of school correctly. They are as follows:
- If a student needs to go home during the day they should ask the office to contact their parent/carer who can give permission for them to leave. Parents should not meet students outside the school grounds and take them home without notifying the school.
- Students with lunch passes must sign out.
- Students in Year 7-10 are not permitted to leave the school grounds without the permission of the school. Students caught off site will receive an afterschool detention.
- Senior students are permitted to leave the school grounds during lunch and recess and during study periods. Students must have permission from their parents/carer to leave site during lesson time.
- It is not acceptable to leave the school and loiter in the community. Students should head directly to their destination.

Truancy and Evacuation
There was an Evacuation Drill on the 21 October. During this drill some students were missing who had been previously in roll call. Students have been informed that in future Evacuation Drills parents will be called if we cannot find them and they have not signed out in the correct manner. This would be the exact same process if there was a real emergency.

Lunch Passes
All lunch passes are no longer usable at the end of term four this year. Students must apply for a new lunch pass in 2014. This year some of our students have consistently failed to sign out, have used their lunch passes at recess or 8 minute break, have been caught at the top shop. As a result there will be a review of the criteria for who will be eligible for a lunch passes in 2014.

Important Calendar Dates in Term Four
Friday 13 December Achievement Assembly 9.15am
Tuesday 17 December Presentation Assembly 9.15am
Wednesday 18 December Years 7, 8 & 9 reports issued
                      HSC results released, Breakfast BBQ and official sign out date and last day of school for all students
Thursday 19 December Staff Development Day
Friday 20 December Staff Development Day

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and I look forward to being back at Swansea High in 2014

Guli Skamperle
Deputy Principal

P&C News
Our next meeting is Tuesday, 3 December from 4.40pm in the Common Room. All welcome, Please come and join us.

Swansea High School
P&C Association

English /Drama
It is hard to believe that I am writing this for our last school newsletter of the year. It feels like it should be no later than June, but here we are talking about Christmas.

As a faculty we have achieved a lot this year and organised numerous events for our students:
- English excursions which have enabled our students to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of content taught in class;
- The Newcastle Herald Newspaper Competition;
- Drama excursions to Sydney to see the Laramie Project and to Civic Theatre Playhouse to see House on Fire, which starred one of our Year 9 students;
- Extension 2 English public forum and workshop
- Debating and public speaking workshop;
- Debating competition;
- Rotary Model United Nations Assembly;
- Public speaking competitions – Youth of the Year, Plain English Speaking;
- Met the famous Australian author John Marsden;
- Stage 4 Theatre Sports Competition;
- Year 12 Drama student’s performance evening.

It is important to mention that we have been tirelessly programming for the new National Curriculum for Years 7 & 9 as well as backward mapping for Year 11 programs to line them up with the new prescriptions and electives for 2015 HSC.

Congratulations to Mrs Taylor and her Year 10 students who won the Best Advertisement in the Newcastle Herald Newspaper Competition and were highly commended for the editorial cartoon.

A big thank you to Mrs Suchy who has been an invaluable member of our faculty this year. We wish her all the best for 2014.

We will be celebrating with Miss Enks in December when she becomes Mrs Wilkins, which will be a lovely lead in to the holiday season.

A very big thank you to all my staff members for their hard work and commitment to our students. Nothing is ever too hard or too much for them if it is in the best interest of our students, faculty and school.

Wishing all our staff, students, parents and community a very safe and joyful Christmas.

Lidija Nenad
Head Teacher English/Drama

What is a homonym?
Let’s face it; English can be a crazy language. Take homonyms, for example. These are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. This homonym list will provide some clarity. Find out more:
Mathematics

All junior term tests have been completed; we hope that students were pleased with their effort and result. Classes will run as usual until the end of term, finishing preceding topics and preparing for the New Year.

Year 12 will sit their first HSC Mathematics Assessment in Week 8; we wish them good luck and hope they are studying hard.

The Maths staff here at Swansea High are looking forward to Christmas and are excited as many students have said that a new calculator, ruler and protractor set are on the top of their Christmas list.

Bruce Eyre
Head Teacher Mathematics

Keeping the school up-to-date

Could parents/guardians please advise the school when mobile phone, home phone, work numbers change as there have been incidents when a child has not been well and we were unable to contact parents due to old phone numbers. Please also advise the school if there are any other changes to your situation eg. Change of address.

Text Messages

Parents when responding to your child’s absences via our text messaging service could you please state your child’s first name and surname as well as the year they are currently in and the dates they are away as this helps the administration staff with correctly identifying your child and days away.

Visual Arts

Students in Year 8 Visual Arts classes are working on lino block images inspired by pictures of the house.

The Year 9 students have been working on a collaborative artwork where each member of a group completes one part of a larger painting. The kiln is out of action at the moment and was due for a service in November. It is hoped that the kiln will be fixed in time for work to be fired before the Christmas break.

Students in Year 9 Digital Media class have been working on creating their own music video. In this activity they are expected to demonstrate editing skills, use transitions, apply titles and music to a video project. The art rooms are fortunate in acquiring several old IMacs that are suitable for this task.

Year 11 (now the Year 12) Visual Arts are working hard in class developing their body of work in preparation for 2014. Keep up the good work there.

Congratulations to 2013 Year 12 Visual Arts students who have completed their Visual Arts exam and body of work and are awaiting their results.

The Visual Arts Department recently held a combined Year 8 to Year 12 Art exhibition in the Library. Featuring the work of the 2013 Year 12 students, digital media students, drawing club students and highlighting the talents of Year 11 photographer Tamara Pearson.

All students are working consistently in their respective classes.

I Jan & S Jan
Visual Arts Teachers

Language

I would like to publicly thank Mrs. Richardson and Mr. Kable for TEACHING my classes, Japanese and French whilst I was away from school for 7 weeks on Long Service Leave. Both teachers are very passionate and experienced in the area of Foreign Languages and I fully appreciate their efforts to make recent language lessons come to life. Feedback received by me enhances my respect for both Mrs. Richardson and Mr. Kable, knowing how both teachers fully respect and work on understanding the students they teach, with many interactions not just lessons in content, but also in life here and now and looking to the future.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Charlton (PE Faculty) for taking on the responsibility of keeping the New Caledonia Excursion Organisation rolling along as per schedule in my absence. We will be joining forces with Glendale Technology High School in December for a week of French lessons and cultural immersion in Noumea. Looking forward to working with SHS students on foreign soil in the not too distant future.

The Year 10 Elective Japanese students have been developing their vocab levels in a variety of topic areas in a variety of script options too. They now have a greater understanding of the Chinese writing system (“Kanji”, in Japanese) and how to count the strokes, draw them in correct order and look them up digitally to find the basic meaning of each pictograph.

I would like to welcome back Yr 11/12 student Savannah Pilgrim who researched, applied for and was successful in achieving a scholarship to experience the Japanese culture, language and daily life first hand on a recent three and a half week home stay in Japan. The smile on Savannah’s face as she told me a little about her journey in the recess break this morning reflected her passion and motivation for pushing herself for her personal best in all areas of her education. Swansea High is proud of you,サバナさん！

Mark Pascoe
LOTE Teacher

News from Mathematics, Visual Arts and Lote

29 November 2013
**Careers**

**Jobs**
- I receive approximately 40 new junior job vacancies every Monday via email. These range from casual jobs to full time apprenticeships and traineeships. I forward this to every Swansea High students’ school email weekly. If you would like to receive this to your email please email me and I will include you on the list.

**Tax File Numbers**
- Every person will require a tax file number at some point in their lives. The ATO has a school program which is very simple. If you are 13 yrs or older we can send a TFN application to the ATO. The only ID requirement is your birth certificate number or passport number. If you would like to apply, either get an application from the careers office or email me your student name, address and ID and I’ll organise the application.

**Swansea High School Community Links Program**
- Swansea High School in partnership with Career Links has a program creating links to the community for the benefit of Swansea High School students now and into the future. If you would like to volunteer for inclusion in programs such as offering work experience, industry visits, school information sessions, student mentoring, interview panels, resume writing, or something else, contact me for information.

*Mark Korsman  
Careers Adviser  
E-mail mark.korsman@det.nsw.edu.au*

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**SPORT**

**Surfboat rowing at Swansea High**
This semester Swansea High has started a program of surf boat rowing training. We are one of only two schools in NSW that currently run this sporting activity.

Students are required to have their surf bronze medallion to participate in surf boat training.
Currently there is a group of Year 10 students who are members of Caves Beach SLSC and they take part in surf boat training on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 pm to 4.00pm.

They had their first competition at Umina Beach on 10/11/2013. In testing conditions which included a 1.5 m swell and wind chop, the boys finished the day in fourth position.

*Rob Silkman*

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**Welfare**

**Verbal Combat**
On 25 November 2013 Brainstorm Productions presented Verbal Combat, a play about cyber bullying and harassment.

The performance makes it clear to students that certain behaviour (such as excluding people, spreading rumours and sending unwanted messages) is in fact bullying and will not be tolerated at our school.

This is an entertaining way to promote discussion and give students strategies to avoid being a bully or a target.

Student response to this production was very positive. All students were focused on and enjoyed the performance.

For more information about the company follow this link or go to [www.brainstormproductions.edu.au](http://www.brainstormproductions.edu.au) 

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**PDHPE**

Well done to all our wonderful PDHPE classes in 2013, students have generally been participating and completing their tasks. Congratulations to Year 10 and we wish you well in your senior studies.

The Premiers Sporting Challenge again has been another success in the school. We are fortunate to be a member of the Leadership Program which involves 43 groups of schools across NSW. We have been able to provide opportunities for our students to participate in Water Polo, Softball, Golf, Tennis, Rugby Union, Touch Football and Rugby League. The Swansea High students will now be able to pass this onto our Galgabba Primary School students in March 2014. This provides leadership opportunities through physical activity and is an important aspect of school life. I would encourage as many students to get involved as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS to Georgia McConville. Georgia will be receiving a Hunter Region Sporting Award as well as the much sought after New South Wales Combined High School Blue for Water Polo. There are only 60 students in NSW receiving this award and Georgia will be in the prestigious company of past Olympians and Commonwealth Games athletes who have earned this impressive accolade. Who knows, perhaps one day Georgia will also follow in their footsteps…….

On a personal note, on behalf of the staff and students of Swansea High I would like to congratulate Mr Gary Mears on being made the Inaugural Life Member of the Eastlakes Schools Zone Sporting Association. Also Mr Mears will be taking leave next year in the lead up to his retirement so we wish him well. He has left a strong PE legacy at SHS and I hope all students take the opportunity to see Mr Mears before the end of the school year and wish him well.

*Mrs Charlton*
CUBBY HOUSE RAFFLE

Aarons

Have kindly donated a $2600 cubby house.

Tickets are available from the front office, PE staffroom, your SRC representative and also at the Annual Presentation on 17 December.

Tickets are $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00

Aboriginal Education

2013 has flown by. A big thank you to all parents, students and staff who have supported Aboriginal Education at Swansea High School. Next year, we will be progressing with our mission to “Close The Gap” at Swansea High School and continue to provide our students with exciting opportunities. I can’t thank each and every person because I’ll take up too much space! But I do have a few individuals that I really need to thank because they have gone above and beyond to support our kids.

Todd Anning, Sharee Bailey, Uncle Mick Green from Bahtabah Land Council, Heather Jones and Penny Lee who is the Aboriginal Faculty and Community Partner at TAFE Purrimaibahn Aboriginal Education and Training Unit. We have been lucky enough to work on programs for our kids including Purrimaibahn Aboriginal Education and Training Unit. We have Aboriginal Faculty and Community Partner at TAFE Land Council, Heather Jones and Penny Lee who is the Todd Anning, Sharee Bailey, Uncle Mick Green from Bahtabah Land Council, Heather Jones and Penny Lee who is the Aboriginal Faculty and Community Partner at TAFE Purrimaibahn Aboriginal Education and Training Unit. We have

And my last housekeeping notice for 2013. If you have not attended the school for a PLP (Personalised Learning Plan) Meeting for your child in 2014, please contact the school to arrange a meeting. The meeting will check the progress and help set goals for your child in 2014. We can also discuss any issues or concerns that you may have. It is our goal to have completed 90% of Aboriginal student PLPs by the end of Term 1, 2014.

And last but not least- Congratulations to Tyla-Lee Fraser who won our Galgabba Logo Design Competition. The Galgabba Logo represents Swansea High and our local Primary Schools. It is a symbol of the schools coming together in one meeting place.

Galgabba

Community of Schools

We are looking forward to what 2014 brings! Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Lauren Anderson

Aboriginal Education Coordinator

Chaplain

Hello Swansea High School Community one final time for 2013! And what a year it has been! It has been a distinct pleasure to be a part of this school community in 2013. We have seen a number of great things happen this year in our school. Here’s just a few of the blessings that your school has been given and been a huge part of this year:

• It’s official – Robyn Leggatt is our Principal for keeps!
• The local churches and a number of Swansea High students and teachers made a gigantic effort in upgrading the appearance of the benches and tables, 5 classrooms, and the gardens around the school
• The SRC and Healthy Schools Healthy Futures teams made huge efforts to raise funds and awareness for some great initiatives to tackle things like bullying, depression, and student involvement in school. Looking forward to more in the year to come!
• The school community and local community are rallying around a great teacher and his family in a very difficult time
• In a word … this year has been AWESOME!

In my experience of life, I’ve found that at this time of year it is important to take stock of the year that has been. What joys have you experienced this year? What burdens have been yours to bear? With whom was it your pleasure to walk this journey with in 2013? These are just a few questions that I ask regularly and encourage you to ask to help you reflect on 2013 and make 2014 an even better year.

As we approach the Christmas and Holiday Season, it can be a time of great joy, but also a time of sadness for many. It can even become more chaotic than normal with the rush to get that perfect present for the person who has everything. I have quoted Andrew Fuller in the past, and I would like to leave you with 4 questions that he asks himself regularly when the busyness and chaos of life seem to have stolen his joy. May you find this Christmas Holiday Season – as Andrew puts it – a set of “good chaos” of life. May you find this Christmas Holiday Season – as Andrew puts it – a set of “good

1. When did you stop singing?
2. When did you stop dancing?
3. When did you stop listening to and telling stories?
4. When did you become disenchanted with the sacred place of silence?

If you would like to read any more of Andrew Fuller’s resources, please visit the following website: www.andrewfuller.com.au. May you each be filled with joy, peace, and love this Christmas Holiday Season. Thank you for being a part of our fabulous school community.

Thank you and God bless,

New Year!

Chaplain - Swansea High School

Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc. (CALM)

Promoting Opportunities with Local Communities

Office Hours: Monday 9am-1pm; Tuesday 8am-10am, 11am-1pm; Thursday 8am-9am, 10am-12pm

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Acknowledgement

This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

More Information

For more information on the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program, please visit the website at: http://deewr.gov.au/national-school-chaplaincy-and-student-welfare-program
TRIVIA NIGHT
A HUGE THANKYOU to all the wonderful staff, students and community of Swansea High School. The Trivia Night was a great success in raising money for the Benham Family. Mr Peter Benham, a member of the PDHPE staff, young son was born 15 week prematurely at the end of September. His wife Sarah and little man Hudson were blown away about the level of support and have asked to pass on their sincere thanks to all.

We were fortunate enough to have a Cubby House donated. We will be holding a raffle and drawing this at the school Annual Presentation 17 December. Please see the accompanying information.

The following businesses and school members supported the Trivia Night by donating prizes, attending and more importantly by demonstrating they care – if you can support them in return that would be terrific.

Swansea RSL Oblasser Family
Hannington Family Cossie’s Café
Swansea surf Shop Swansea computers
Leggatt family Austine Family
Elysium Faye from Blacksmiths
Amcal Swansea Jarrett family
Rip Taylor Parkview Takeaway
Buckley Family Nix Hair
Woolworths Swansea Muso’s corner
Charlton Family Newell Family
Travelscene Swansea Chi
Brown Family Mears Family
Anderson Family Smith Family
First Creek Wines Caves Beach Gym
The Joint Café Redhead Drinkwaters Landscaping
James Norman SHS English Staff
Chris Smith Hughes Family
Combined Christian Churches Skamperle Family

There were a number of people who worked behind the scenes to ensure the night was organised and ran smoothly so a special thanks goes to Mr Mears and Mrs Buckley.

Thanks again to all the wonderful SHS Community – you truly are magnificent!

Mrs Charlton

Tips for Parents

Design Competition
The design competition for NSW Youth Week 2014 is open to young people aged 12-15 years. The winning artist will be awarded $1000 and given the chance to showcase their work during Youth Week. Find out more:

Smart travelling
Is your child heading overseas after finishing their HSC? Suggest they consult safety advice on the Australian Government’s Smart Traveller website before they go. Find out more:

Community languages
Do you speak a language at home other than English? Would you like your child to learn that language or improve their skills? Saturday School of Community languages enrolments for 2014 are now open. Find out more:
http://www.sscl.scho...
**Coming Events for Term 4**

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<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>Y8 Interviews</td>
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<td>Authentic Assess Interview Week</td>
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<td>P7 &amp; 8 Marine excursion</td>
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<td>P3 ‘Art of Manliness’ mentoring Program</td>
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<td>9am-1pm – Surf Survival at Swansea Pool</td>
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<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>Luna Park, Taronga Zoo &amp; Powerhouse/Aquarium excursion all day</td>
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<td>Y9 Aboriginal Learning Circle</td>
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<td>Y10 Sport at Caves Beach 10.30-12.00 noon</td>
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<td>P7-8 Aboriginal Boys Didgeridoo workshop</td>
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<td>Y12 2014 Engineering Studies assess task P1-2</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>P7 &amp; 8 Marine excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>Y9 Aboriginal Learning Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y12 Senior Science Assess task P3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Dec</td>
<td>Y9 Aboriginal Learning Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y9 Sport at Caves Beach 10.30-12.00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>P5 &amp; 6 Marine excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-3.30 Eastlakes Youth hairdressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Dec</td>
<td>Achievement Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y7 &amp; 10 Sport at Caves Beach 10.30-12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>P7 &amp; 8 Marine excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y12 speech Assess. Task Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Dec</td>
<td>Annual Presentation Assembly 9.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y7, 8, 9 Reports Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y9 Aboriginal Learning Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y12 Speech Assess. Task Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Dec</td>
<td>HSC results released – Breakfast BBQ and sign out day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y9 Aboriginal Learning circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y9 sport at Caves Beach 10.30-12.00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Dec</td>
<td>Staff Development Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Dec</td>
<td>Staff Development Day 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calendar Term 1, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td>AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Jan</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>Yrs 7, 11 &amp; 12 students start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>All students attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>24 Feb Y7 &amp; 9 Immunisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>7 March HSC Chemistry Assess Task 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Group classes
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Every week Single with Children provides fun & exciting activities especially for single parents and their children (many activities are subsidized or every free)

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Or visit our website: www.singlewithchildren.com.au

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Southern Beaches Junior rugby Union
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All ages turning 56-18 years
Registrar: Paul Meagher: 0401 507 849

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Toll Free: 1800 500 501
Web: www.scce.com.au

Volunteer to host an international high school student through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange (S.C.C.E.) in February or July 2014 for 3, 5 or 10 month programs, will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by S.C.C.E. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaustr@scc.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

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Contact Cynthia Culhane, your local Saver Plus Work 02 4927 8385 or 0418 699 646 or Cynthia.Culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au

McDonalds Swansea
Looking for a way to raise funds for your Organization/school

Recently the McLeods have purchased McDonald's Swansea as of the 1 October 2013. Being a Community focused business, we would like to get to know the locals. Looking forward to supporting your school for future events.

Hoping you & your families are all safe after the recent fires.

Bookings & Enquiries welcome by contacting your local Customer Relations Representative: Nicole@familychips.com.au or 0413 428 756

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Ring NOW to express your interest for Semester 1, 2014 courses.
INFORMATION/ENROLMENT SESSION WILL BE HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2013 AT 10.00AM

Top Up Information/Enrolment Session on 21 January 2014 at 10.00am
Classes commence 3 February 2014
For further information, please give us a call on 4979 6162 or 4979 6226 or check our website at www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au